



REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

Approved by:


Arnaldo Rodriguez, City Manager

Council Meeting of: October 4, 2023

Agenda Number: B-14

SUBJECT:

Multiple Letters of Support Provided by the City of Madera

RECOMMENDATION:

This report is submitted for informational purposes only, and no action is requested from City Council (Council) at this time

SUMMARY:

Since the City's most recent Council Meeting on September 6, 2023, staff received and complied with three requests for letters of support from the following agencies to endorse their distinct projects and grant requests:

- Camarena Health
- Madera County Department of Public Health, and
- California High-Speed Rail Authority

As the letters of support were provided to the agencies, this Staff report intends to present contextual information on each of the three agency requests.

DISCUSSION:

Camarena Health

On September 12th, Camarena Health requested a letter supporting their application to become a Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) Provider with the Department of Healthcare Services (DHCS). The PACE model of care provides a comprehensive medical/social service delivery system using an interdisciplinary team approach and coordinates all needed preventive, primary, acute, and long-term care services for individuals aged 55 and older. The PACE model allows some individuals who would otherwise reside in nursing facilities to remain independent and in their homes for as long as possible.

The PACE program is administered by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and is a capitated benefit for the elderly authorized by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (BBA) that features a comprehensive service delivery system and integrated Medicare and Medicaid financing. The BBA established PACE as a permanent entity within the Medicare program and enables states to provide PACE services to Medicaid beneficiaries as a state plan option. Operationally, the PACE program is unique as a three-way partnership between the Federal government, the State, and the PACE organization. There are currently approximately 20,000 participants in the PACE program in one of 80 operational PACE organizations in 30 States.

Camarena Health has been a healthcare provider to the residents of Madera for over 40 years, since its opening in 1980, and has filled a critical healthcare gap in the City's region since the closure of Madera Community Hospital (MCH) in December of 2022. Given the interruption of full-service medical care to community members, the availability of such PACE programs as adult day care, emergency services, home care, meals, nutritional counseling, occupational therapy, and social services to the region's aging population may not only positively impact a vulnerable population, but also alleviate the burden on surrounding healthcare facilities that have absorbed the impact of treating Madera's elderly patients since the closure of MCH. To support Camarena Health's endeavor to establish itself as a PACE provider, staff provided a letter of support to Chief Strategy Officer, Nichole Mosqueda on September 18, 2023.

Madera County Department of Public Health

On September 14th, staff received a request from Madera County Public Health Director, Sara Bosse to provide a letter supporting a grant application for the Community Resilience Center Implementation Grant (CRC) to fund the expansion of their Department of Public Health Campus Hope Center. The CRC grant is administered by the Strategic Growth Council and intends to fund the planning, development, construction, and upgrades of local facilities to serve as Community Resilience Centers, providing shelter and resources during climate and other emergencies. The program will also fund ongoing year-round community services and programs that build overall community resilience. The Madera County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) submitted an application for funding to establish the Madera County Hope Center, which will house the Community Wellness Programs, Behavioral Health Administrative Staff, an outdoor garden, and a large indoor/outdoor training and public meeting space. The Hope Center aligns with the CRC grant objectives in providing year-round programming for civic and community development, climate resilience awareness, distribution of community services and resources, and programming that supports disaster preparedness. To support MCDPH's endeavor to secure grant funding for the future Hope Center site, staff provided a letter of support to Madera County on September 18, 2023.

California High-Speed Rail Authority

On September 22, 2023, staff received a letter of support request from the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (SJRR) on behalf of the California High-Speed Rail Authority (HSR or Authority) affirming the City's support for their application for funding through the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Program. This Program is administered by the United

States Department of Transportation (DOT). The application seeks \$192 million in federal funding for a total project cost of \$240 million and includes state-matching high-speed rail funds of \$48 million from the Authority's Cap-and-Trade program. If awarded, grant funds will be used within the Merced to Bakersfield segment and include two new grade-separated crossings over State Route 152 and a suite of investments in Fairmead that will provide sidewalks, a multi-use trail, wastewater connections, and a community center.

The current highway infrastructure to the Chowchilla and Fairmead communities has created barriers to economic opportunities for residents. Two of the three census tracts in the project area are considered disadvantaged under the Biden Administration's Justice40 screening tool. Specifically, Fairmead is ranked 98th for transportation barriers; 97th for asthma rates; 82nd for low-income and 90th for linguistic isolation. These two disadvantaged areas are geographically situated at the nexus between the Central Valley and the southern San Francisco Bay Peninsula. However, current long-distance vehicle travel has limited access between these areas. The introduction of high-speed rail and convenient connections to the Merced Station, 26 miles north, and the Madera Station, 15 miles south, are expected to bring new residential and commercial growth to these disadvantaged communities. This grant would allow the Authority, working with Madera County, the City of Chowchilla, and Fairmead, to complete transportation improvements, provide safer grade-separated access, improve multi-modal connectivity, and make other improvements to support local economic development and jobs access goals. The project intends to address the long-standing connectivity issues in the region. Given the project's proximity, it is likely that Madera residents will also benefit from the resulting economic growth and improved access. To support the Authority's application for federal funding from the RCN Program, the City provided a Letter of Support on September 28, 2023.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no financial impact anticipated from providing these Letters of Support.

ALTERNATIVES:

None.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Letter of Support for Camarena Health
2. Letter of Support for Madera County Department of Public Health
3. Letter of Support for the California High-Speed Rail Authority



September 18, 2023

Courtney Maslyn, Division Chief
California Department of Health Care Services
Integrated Systems of Care Division
PACE Unit, Mail Station 4502
PO Box 997413
Sacramento, CA 95899-7413

Re: Letter of Support for Camarena Health in Madera County

Dear Ms. Maslyn:

On behalf of the City of Madera, as the City Manager, I am writing to express support for Camarena Health's application to bring Program of All- Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) services to the senior community members of Madera and throughout the county.

Camarena Health has been providing high-quality, affordable healthcare services to low-income residents in Madera County for over 40 years. Since its founding in 1980, Camarena Health has been guided by the mission to promote healthy communities by providing quality and compassionate healthcare to all. For decades, in support of this mission, Camarena Health has tailored service offerings to fill critical healthcare gaps in the region; including to ensure access and care to the region's elderly and Medicare populations.

Currently, Madera County is facing a shortage of high-quality, affordable care options to serve the complex health needs of older adults in the region, especially after the closure of Madera Community Hospital at the beginning of January 2023. Given Madera County's high rates of poverty and disability (coupled with a rapidly growing population of older adults), the PACE model is well-positioned to serve and positively impact many eligible area residents and their caregivers throughout my district.

I strongly support a Camarena Health operated PACE program in Madera County and appreciate your consideration of this letter. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by email at arodriguez@madera.gov or by phone at (559) 661-5400.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Arnaldo Rodriguez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter 'y'.

Arnaldo Rodriguez
City Manager

cc: Paulo Soares, CEO of Camarena Health



September 18, 2023

California Strategic Growth Council
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Letter of Support for Madera County Hope Center Under the CRC Implementation Grant

To Whom It May Concern,

I write to express the City of Madera's wholehearted support for the Madera County Hope Center, a vital initiative spearheaded by the Madera County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) for the CRC Implementation Grant. This project is not only timely but essential for building a resilient and healthier community within Madera County and our city.

The vision of the Madera County Hope Center is closely aligned with the mission and objectives of the City of Madera. We find the focus on improving air quality, emergency preparedness, and community resilience to be particularly crucial for our citizens' well-being.

We are excited by the opportunity for collaborative efforts between the City of Madera and the Hope Center, given that the center's property is situated within our city limits. Our existing senior centers and community programs are ripe for integration into the center's emergency planning, particularly concerning the Access and Functional Needs (AFN) population.

MCDPH's track record speaks volumes of their capability and dedication to serving community needs. The fact that MCDPH is actively working with General Administration to complete this application adds another layer of confidence in the project's success.

To substantiate our support, the City of Madera is pleased to offer resources for facilitating community outreach, linking city-run programs, and providing logistical support where feasible.

We eagerly anticipate the implementation of the Madera County Hope Center and are fully committed to its success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Arnaldo Rodriguez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Arnaldo Rodriguez
City Manager

cc: Sara Bosse, Madera County Public Health Director



September 27, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: California High-Speed Rail Authority Request for Reconnecting Communities Grant

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the City of Madera, I am pleased to express support for the application submitted by the California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) for grant funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Program. The requested federal grant is \$192 million alongside proposed state matching funds from the Authority's Cap-and-Trade program of \$48 million for a total project cost of \$240 million.

The Project would allow the Authority, working with Madera County, the City of Chowchilla, and Fairmead, to complete transportation and other improvements associated with high-speed rail construction in the area. These improvements will provide safer grade separated access and improved connectivity to support local economic development and job access goals.

The proposed Project would be an investment in the City of Chowchilla for two grade separations that would improve access along SR 152 by connecting rural agricultural areas in the south with commercial development areas in the north. Additionally, the Project would include multimodal transportation and infrastructure investments within Fairmead, a community impacted by past SR 99 construction. Enhancements include laying sidewalks, creating a multi-use trail, adding wastewater connections, and constructing a community center. These investments significantly improve accessibility to new residential and commercial development areas supporting growth and economic investment within this disadvantaged area.

Because these two disadvantaged areas are geographically situated at the nexus between the Central Valley and the southern San Francisco Bay Peninsula, long distance vehicle travel has limited growth and development to the regions. The introduction of high-speed rail and convenient connections to the Merced Station, 26 miles to the north, and Madera Station, 15 miles to the south, are expected to enhance access to this area, bringing economic and community growth.

As you review this application, please consider the significance of how this Project will address long standing connectivity issues from previous highway construction and prepare these areas for a more prosperous future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Arnaldo Rodriguez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Arnaldo Rodriguez
City Manager

cc: Michael Hanebutt, Senior Planner, San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission